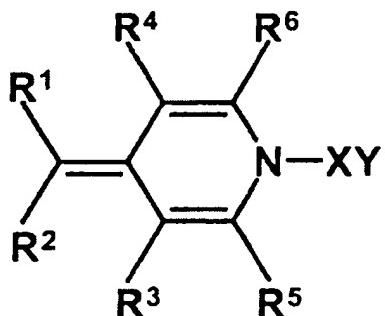


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A compound of the general formula I



wherein

R¹ and R² are each a cyano group,

R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen atoms, unsubstituted C₁-C₁₀ alkyl groups, or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl groups,

X has is an alkyl, alkylphenyl, or an alkylcycloalkyl having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, phenyl, or an alkyl, alkylphenyl, or alkylcycloalkyl having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms in which the alkyl group of the alkyl, alkylphenyl, or alkylcycloalkyl is interrupted by 1-3 hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of O and N, and the alkyl interrupted by said 1-3 hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of O and N

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optionally has from one to three hydroxy functional groups, and ~~X further has wherein the alkyl, alkylphenyl, alkylcycloalkyl, or the alkyl, alkylphenyl, or alkylcycloalkyl in which the alkyl group of the alkyl, alkylphenyl, or alkylcycloalkyl is interrupted by said 1-3 hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of O and N and optionally has from one to three hydroxyl functional groups has at least one group including at least one hetero atom selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P which is positively or negatively charged wherein said group is selected from the group consisting of a quaternary ammonium group, a quaternary ammonium amine group, -O-SO₃⁻, -COO⁻, -O-PO₃H⁻, -O-PO₃⁻², -SO₃⁻, -PO₃H⁻, and -PO₃⁻², and X has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and from 1 to 10 hetero atoms,~~ and

Y

is a counterion selected from the group consisting of a quaternary ammonium ion, an alkali metal ion, an alkali earth metal ion, a triethanol ammonium ion, an aminomethylpropanol ion, a tris(tromethamine) ion, and a halogen ion.

2-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the at least one group including at least one hetero atom selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P which is positively or negatively charged has one positive charge.

7. (Previously presented): The compound according to claim 6, wherein the at least one group which has one positive charge is a quaternary ammonium group.

8. (Previously presented): The compound according to claim 7, wherein Y is a halogen ion.

9. (Currently amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the at least one group including at least one hetero atom selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P which is positively or negatively charged has one negative charge.

10. (Previously presented): The compound according to claim 9, wherein the at least one group which has one negative charge is selected from the group consisting of -COO^- , -O-SO_3^- , and $\text{-O-PO}_3\text{H}^-$.

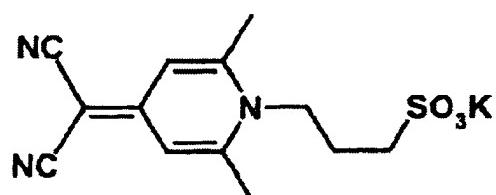
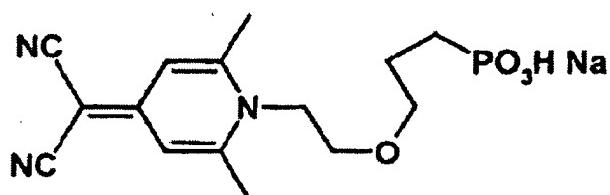
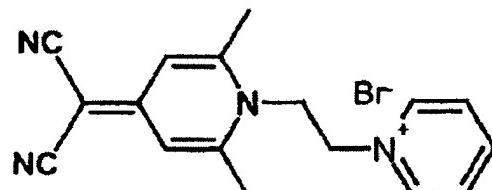
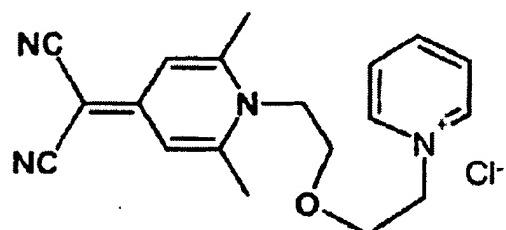
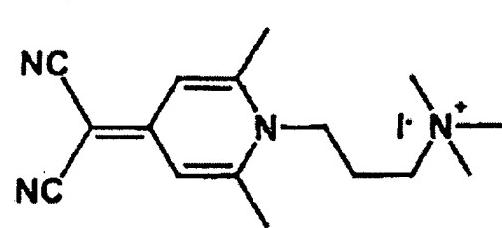
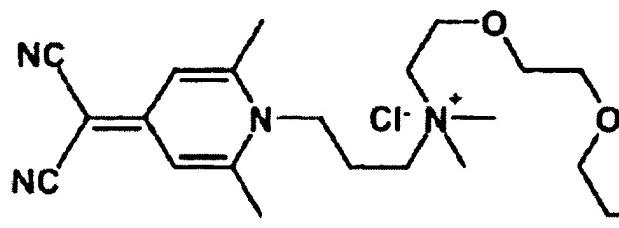
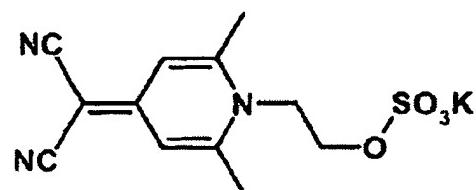
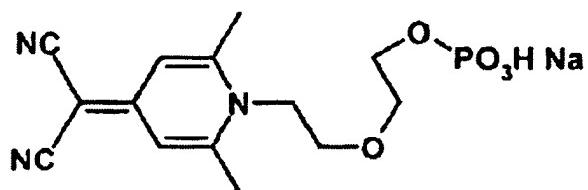
11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously presented): The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^3 and R^4 are each hydrogen atoms.

13. (Previously presented): The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen atoms and $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl groups.

14. (Canceled).

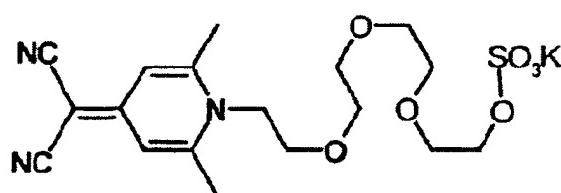
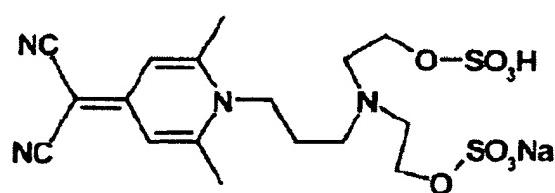
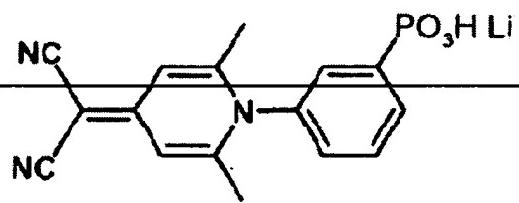
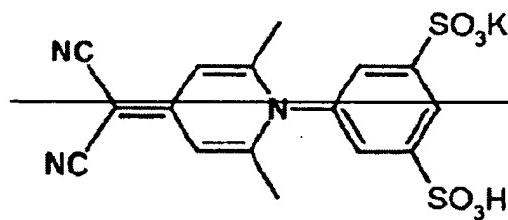
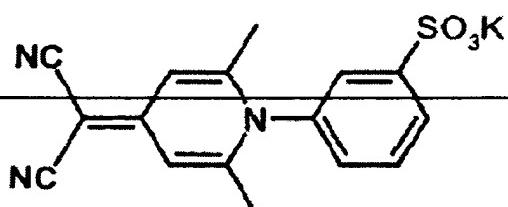
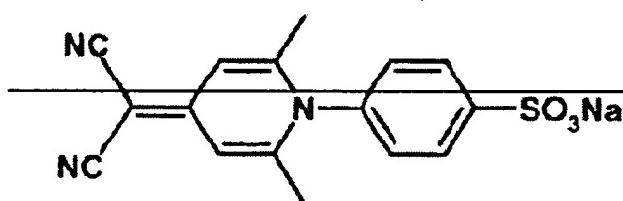
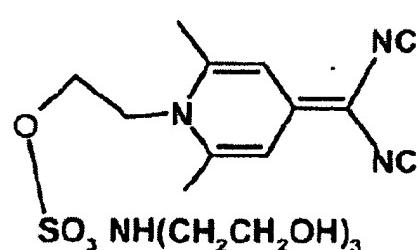
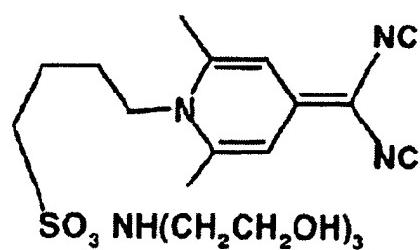
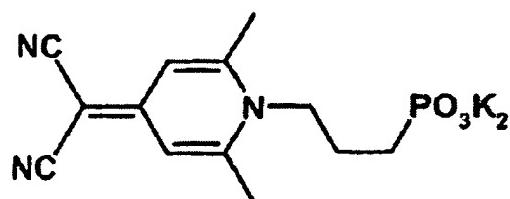
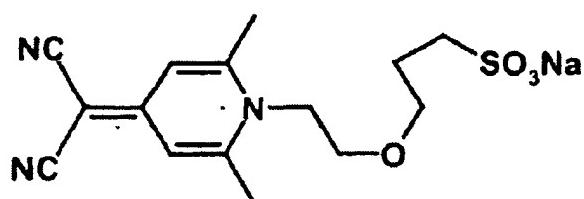
15. (Currently amended): The compound according to claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of:



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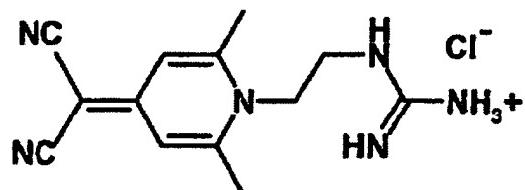
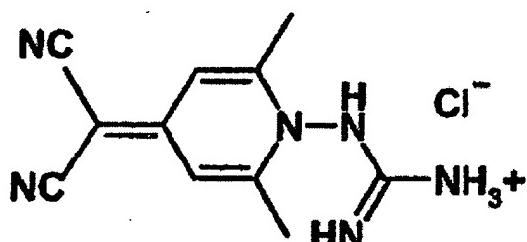
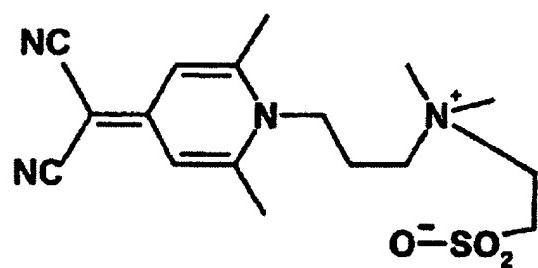
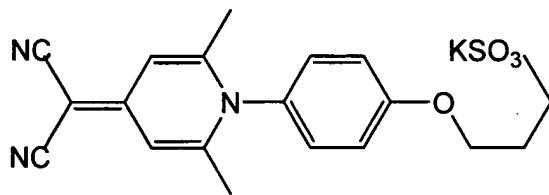
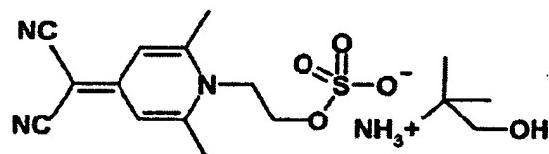
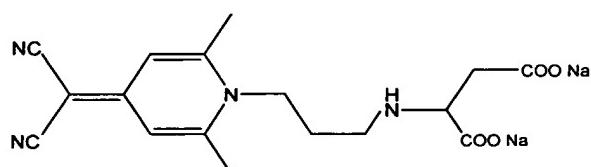
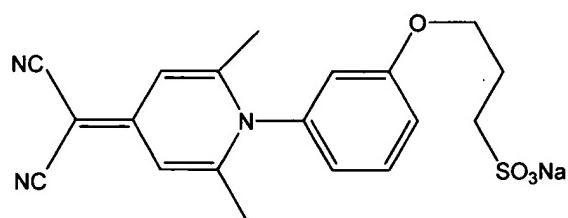
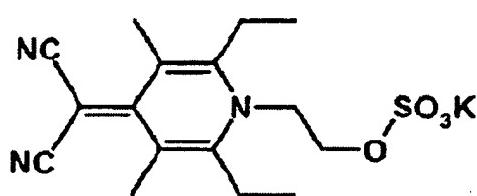
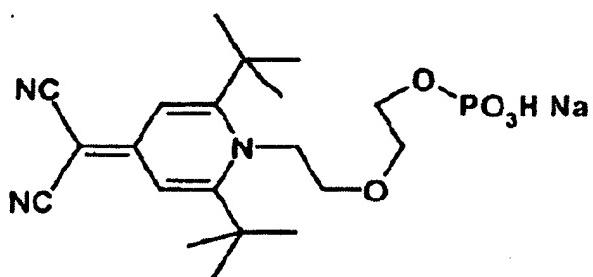
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and

16. (Previously presented): An UV-A screening composition comprising a compound according to claim 1.

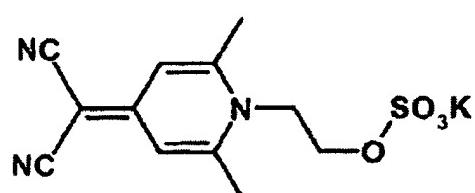
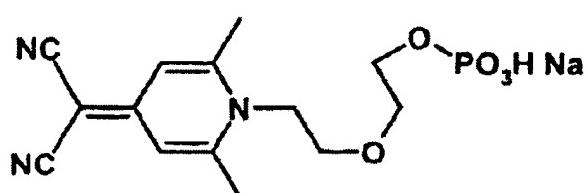
17. (Previously presented): The UV-A screening composition according to claim 16, which is a cosmetic composition for protecting skin or hair against UV-A radiation.

18-22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously presented): The compound according to claim 7, wherein the quaternary ammonium group is a pyridinyl.

24. (Previously presented): The compound according to claim 7, wherein the quaternary ammonium group comprises a charged nitrogen which interrupts the alkyl group of the alkyl, alkylphenyl, or alkylcycloalkyl.

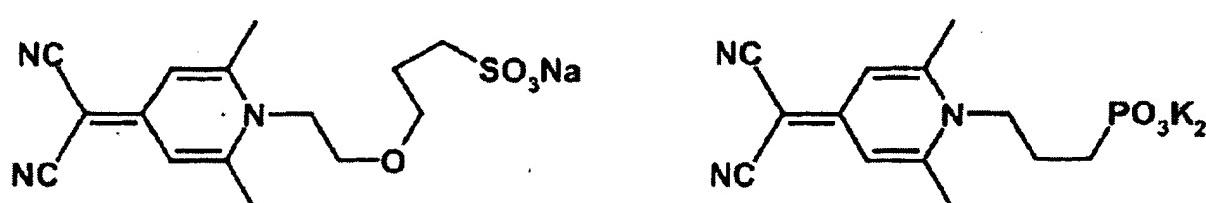
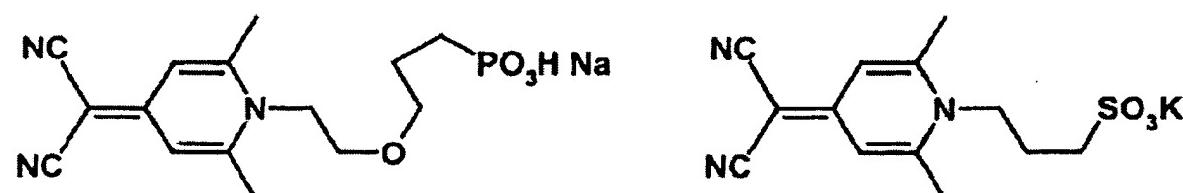
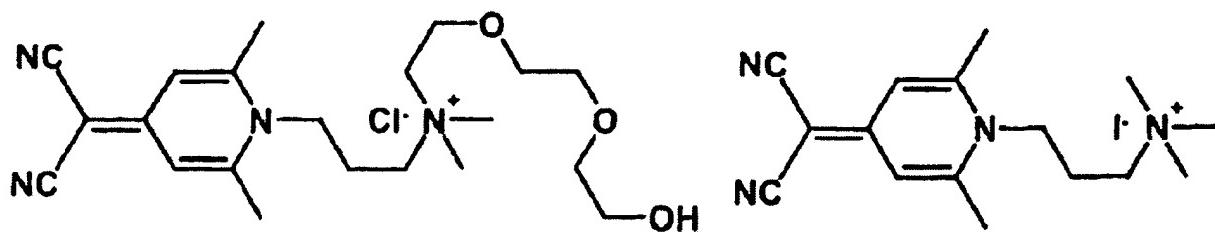
25. (Currently amended): The compound according to claim 15, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:



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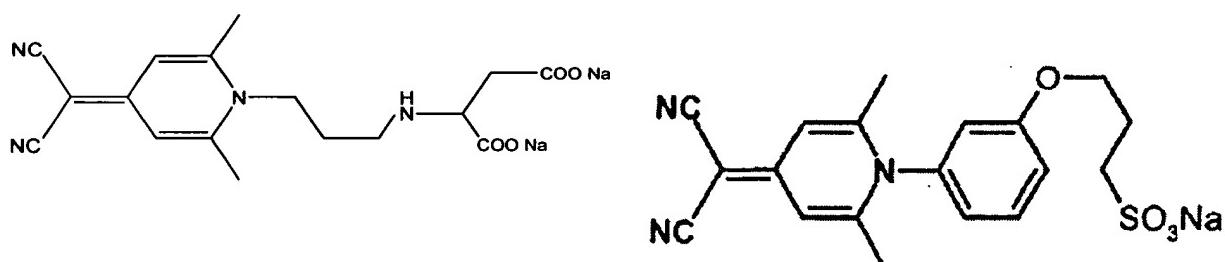
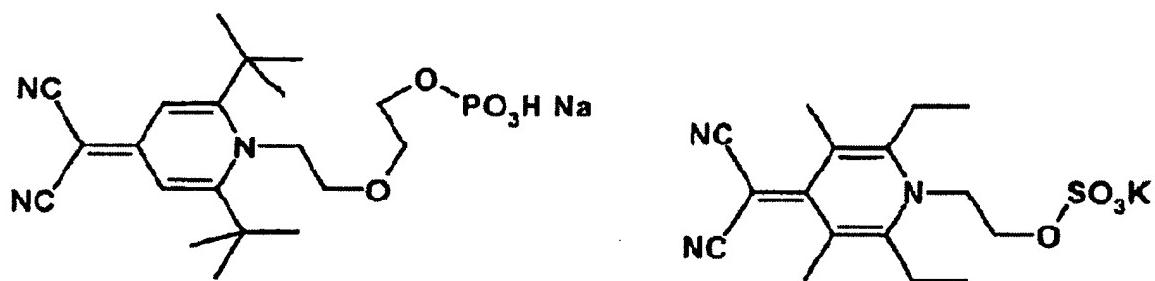
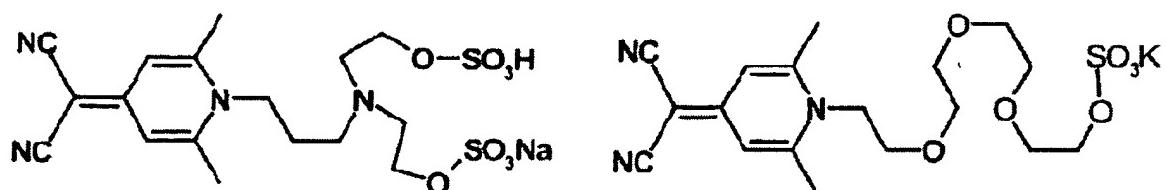
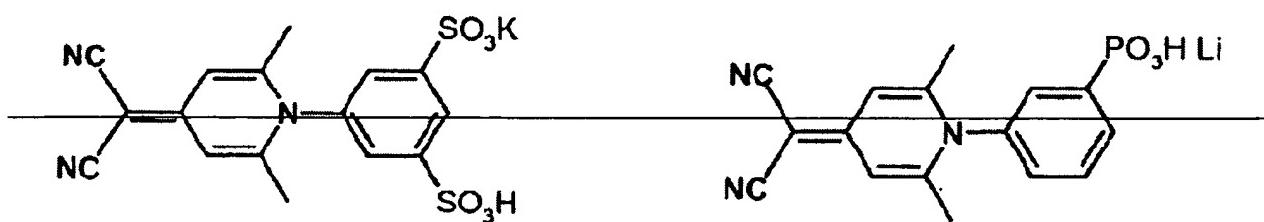
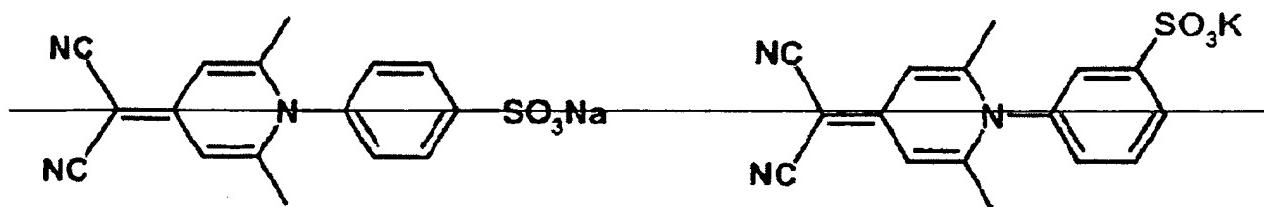
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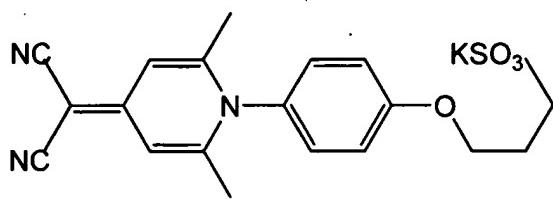
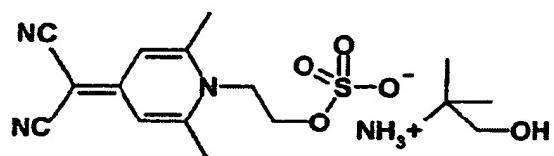
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